

Housing Charges were last revised with effect from 1.4.2001. Screening charges of registered baggage of passengers at domestic airports were last revised with effect from 1.5.1996.

New entrants in aviation sector

1337. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications which are pending from private companies seeking permission to enter into the aviation industry;
- (b) whether adequate facilities are available in the airports of this country to handle heavy rush of aircrafts; and
- (c) what is the plan of Government to reduce airport taxes in some of the airports within the country, as the same is different in various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are 11 applications pending from private companies seeking permission to operate scheduled domestic Air Transport Services.

(b) Provision of adequate infrastructural facilities at the airports in the country is a continuous process and is being provided in a phased manner, depending upon the traffic growth and demand from airline operators. Government has taken several steps to facilitate growth of airport infrastructure in a sustained manner through restructuring of important metro airports, facilitating construction of private greenfield airports, allowing FDI in airport infrastructure upto 100% and development of important non-metro airports through public private partnership.

(c) While airport operators charge landing/parking charges from airlines/ aircraft operator there is no airport tax levied by the Government.

Chandigarh as civil airport

1338. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress about making Chandigarh as a civil airport;